

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2591

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3446

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, US

SUBJECT: US LABOR LEADER CRITICIZES PRIMIN PALME AND
SWEDISH WAR RECORD

1. INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMAN PRESIDENT THOMAS GLEASON, CURRENTLY IN STOCKHOLM ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS CONGRESS, IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED ON SWEDISH TELEVISION CONDEMNED PRIME MINISTER PALME FOR "INTERFERENCE IN AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS" BY HIS PAST CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND US FOREIGN POLICY. ACCORDING TO GLEASON, PALME IS NOT JUST ANTI-NIXON, BUT RATHER ANTI-AMERICAN. GLEASON ASSERTED THAT NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND "PARTICULARLY NOT SWEDEN," WHICH HE CHARGED HAD COOPERATED WITH BOTH THE NAZIS AND THE SOVIETS IN WORLD WAR II AND HAD EMERGED FROM THE WAR A WEALTHY NATION. MONEY, HE CHARGED, HAS BEEN SWEDEN'S ONLY GOAL.

2. A NUMBER OF US DELEGATES TO THE ITF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT GLEASON'S STRONGLY WORDED CRITICISM OF THE SWEDES, AND
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SEVERAL CONFIDED TO THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT THEY CONSIDERED

GLEASON'S REMARKS TO BE IN BAD TASTE.

3. COMMENTS: PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE GLEASON CRITICISM IS THAT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT ON IT IN THE SWEDISH PRESS. IN VIEW OF THE HARD-HITTING NATURE OF GLEASON'S REMARKS, SUCH SILENCE ON THE PART OF THE PRESS IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL. IT MAY BE THAT THE SUBJECT (SWEDEN'S RECORD IN WORLD WAR II) IS OF SUCH SENSITIVITY THAT THE SWEDISH PRESS EXERCISED A DEGREE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP IN DECLINING TO PUBLICIZE AND COMMENT ON GLEASON'S REMARKS.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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